(iii) Facilitation Centres/Inquiry Counters: The Central Government have issued funds to State Governments for establishing Facilitation Centres/Inquiry Counters in the respective High Courts under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Funds have also been provided for the use of Information Technology in the High Courts.

(iv) Filling up of vacancies: The Judge strength in High Courts is reviewed once in three years. State Governments and Union Territories have been requested to fill up vacant posts of Judges/magistrates in District/Subordiante courts.

(v) Family Courts: States/UTs have been requested to establish more Family Courts for speedy disposal of matrimonial disputes and other related cases.

Shortage of judges

1597. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of judges in view of population of the country;

(b) if so, the number of judges working per 10 lakh population;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of judges in the country is less than the countries like America, England, France and Japan; and

(d) if so, the proportion of judges in the said countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present judge strength in India is 14 per 10 lakh population (approx.)

(c) and (d) As per 120th report of Eleventh Law Commission, the proportion of judge strength in America and England are 107 and

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

50.9 judges per 10 lakh people respectively. Information in respect of proportion of judges in France and Japan is not available with this Department.

FTCs in Gujarat

1598. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fast Track Courts have been set up in all the States;

(b) if so, the number of such courts functioning in Gujarat;

(c) the number of cases pending in High Courts and other Courts transferred to the Fast Track Courts during the last three years and decided by these courts in the State; and

(d) whether Government propose to set up more such courts to reduce the pending cases in the High Courts and other subordinate Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C.THOMAS): (a) Fast Track Courts have been set up in all the States except Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

(b) As per available information, 61 Fast Track Courts are functioning in Gujarat.

(c) During the last 3 years, 29,302 cases were transferred to the Fast Track Courts in Gujarat, out of which 8,771 cases have been decided by these courts in the State.

(d) Altogether 1,734 such courts are being set up throughout the country to reduce the pending cases in the sessions courts, out of which 1366 have been notified and 1057 are functional. The State Governments have been requested to set up the remaining numbers of such courts. The Government have also taken up with Twelfth Finance Commission for creation of another 1500 Fast Track Courts of magistrates for dealing with non-sessions cases, and other crimes.